Pre-paid and post-paid Cell Phones in AP

1646. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cell phones *i.e.* pre-paid and post-paid, which are working in Andhra Pradesh and in areas under Hyderabad District Telecom;

(b) the number of Cell Towers which are at present functioning in the twin cities of Hyderabad;

(c) whether there are any plans to increase them to improve signals;

(d) whether Government would assure of restoring three minutes or at least two minutes pulse rate for out-going calls from BSNL Land-Line Phones to BSNL cell phones;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per information provided by service providers, the number of mobile subscribers (pre-paid and post-paid) in Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad are 28,41,191 and 11,88,845 respectively.

(b) The number of cell towers which are at present functioning in the twin cities of Hyderabad are 910.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. There is no any proposal to allow 3 minutes or 2 minutes pulse rate for out-going calls from BSNL landline phone to BSNL cell phones.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) Prior to implementation of Calling Party Pays (CPP) regime, the land line phone subscribers used to pay local charges @ 3 minutes pulse for calls to cellular mobile phones and the cellular mobile subscriber used to pay incoming air-time (per minute) charges for receiving the incoming calls. Subsequently, when CPP regime was introduced, the total charges for the call from land line phones to cellular mobile phones are to be paid

by the calling (land line) subscriber and the cellular mobile subscribers does not pay any charge for receiving the calls. Since, the land line phone operators has to pay mobile termination charge to cellular mobile operators at the rates precribed in Interconnect Usage Charge Regulation issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, it is not possible for them to increase the pulse duration to 3 minutes or 2 minutes for calls to cellular mobile phones.

Capacity of telephone exchanges in U.P.

1647. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present capacity of the telephone exchanges in the State of Uttar Pradesh, exchange-wise;

(b) the number of phones lying out of order in the cities of the State with specific reference to districts of Moradabad and Jyotibaphule Nagar, exchange-wise, during the last year, till date; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard specifically where WLL/landline connections are also not working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The capacity of the telephone exchanges in the State of U.R is given in the Annexure No. 7 (for UP East) and (for UP West). *[See* Appendix 202 Annexure No. 7]

(b) The number of phones lying out of order in the cities of the State during the last year till date is Nil. However, complaints booked for telephone faults last year, till date for districts of Moradabad and Jyotibaphule Nagar, exchange-wise is given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(c) Following steps are being taken to improve the services:

* Coverage area of WLL is being increased by increasing the number of BTSs in rural areas.

* Better quality FWTs, having more battery back up are being procured.